

TASK
PERFORM RAPPELLING PROCEDURES

WARNING

Ensure the rappel master and crew chief are wearing a safety harness secured to a tiedown ring anytime the cabin doors are open. Also ensure that all rappellers are on the ground before any rappel ropes are released.

CONDITIONS: In a UH-60 helicopter configured for rappelling.

STANDARDS: Appropriate common standards plus these additions/modification:

1. Rated.

- a. Conduct a thorough crew and passenger safety briefing.
- b. Maintain appropriate hover altitude ± 5 feet allowing at least 20 feet of rope to remain on the ground.
- c. Do not allow drift to exceed ± 5 feet from the intended hover point.
- d. Maintain ropes in continuous contact with the ground.

2. Nonrated. Ensure that the aircraft is configured for rappelling operations per TC 21-24.

DESCRIPTION:

1. Crew actions.

a. The PC will conduct a crew and passenger briefing and ensure personnel understand their responsibility during rappelling operations, including aircraft safety an action in the event of an emergency. He will ensure the aircraft is rigged. He will emphasizes procedural techniques for clearing, recovery, and or jettison of ropes.

b. The P* will remain focused primarily outside the aircraft throughout the maneuver for aircraft control and obstacle avoidance. He will announce the intended point of insertion and remain centered over the target with corrections from the rappel master and NCM as required.

c. The P and NCM will assist in clearing the aircraft and will provide adequate warning of obstacles. They will also assist the P* in maintaining a stable hover by providing the P* with information regarding drift of the aircraft. The P will also monitor cockpit indications.

d. The NCM will ensure that the aircraft is configured per TC 21-24. He will also ensure that all rappelling ropes are dropped or retrieved and secured in the aircraft before takeoff.

2. Procedures. Make the approach into the wind if possible and plan to terminate the approach at an altitude that will clear the highest obstacle. Select an appropriate reference point to maintain heading and position over the ground. Ensure the aircraft is at an altitude that allows approximately 20 feet of the rappelling ropes to be on the ground. During the rappelling operation, use the collective to maintain altitude and be prepared to correct for CG changes as the rappellers depart the aircraft.

ADVERSE WEATHER/TERRAIN CONDITIONS: Rappel operations will not be conducted under the following CONDITIONS:

1. Ambient temperature is 30 degrees Fahrenheit or less.
2. Winds in excess of 30 knots.
3. Lightning strikes within 1 nautical mile of rappelling operations.
4. Wind chill factors caused by the helicopter's rotor wash or extraction cruise air speeds, which could cause cold weather injuries.
5. Water or ice on the rope inhibiting the ability of the rappellers to control their descent.
6. The rope is exposed to the elements for a sufficient length or time to freeze, thereby reducing its tensile strength.
7. Blowing particles produced by rotor wash causes the aircrew or the rappel master to lose visual contact with the ground.

NIGHT OR NVG CONSIDERATIONS: Proper scanning techniques are necessary to avoid spatial disorientation. One chemlight will be attached to the end of the rope and one to the attachment point of the rope. One chemlight will be on each rappeller. NVG lighting will be IAW unit SOP or the tactical environment.

TRAINING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Training.** Training will be conducted in the aircraft.
2. **Evaluation.** Evaluation will be conducted in the aircraft.

REFERENCES: Appropriate common references plus the following:

Rappelling Air Worthiness Release

